

The Talk Story Article

Japanese Kanji Lesson on DZR Kanji

Thomas R. Jenkins

The following list of kanji and kana characters are purported by some to be the “proper” Japanese characters of the lists of Danzan Ryu Judo from Master Henry S. Okazaki.

These claims are unsubstantiated for the following reasons:

This “Japanese Kanji Lesson” dated 1994, has no author listed.

This is an undocumented work.

NO DOCUMENTATION = HEARSAY

“These characters were taken from Prof. Kufferath’s notes in Japanese, given to him personally by Prof. Okazaki.”

This is an undocumented statement.

NO DOCUMENTATION = HEARSAY

“The following is the proper Japanese for the Danzanryu lists.”

This is an undocumented statement.

NO DOCUMENTATION = HEARSAY

When looking at this document there appears a glaring omission of the Japanese kana character ノ “NO” used for the English article “of” exclusively by the Japanese in their writing system but completely non-existent in the Chinese writing system. This omission, obvious to a Japanese reader, casts serious doubts that the text in this document was from Master Okazaki. However, it is possible, the unnamed writer was a Japanese writer but was copying Chinese texts which omit the kana ノ “NO”. Nonetheless, it still negates the text itself as being from a native Japanese writer such as Master Okazaki who wrote fluently in Japanese and used this kana “NO” in his scrolls.

Here are two examples to demonstrate a similar omission in American-English. The first example using the “of” and the second example omitting the “of”.

Bank of America versus Bank America

Tree of Life versus Tree Life

Such omissions change the meaning of these expressions completely.

These omissions of the kana “NO” are also present in the alleged Bing Fai Lau “Secrets of Jujitsu” document where it reads: SHINNIN MAKI; SHINYO MAKI; SHINGEN MAKI. It is also lacking in the “SHINYO MAKI” “KO HI RYOKU” document allegedly signed by “Sig Kufferath”. Other documents are the SHINNIN MAKI lists of Professor’s Tony Janovich and George Arrington claiming to be from Master Okazaki. All of these texts use the Chinese writing style which was not used by Master Okazaki in his scrolls.

Japanese Kanji Lesson

The following is the proper Japanese for the Danzanryu Jujitsu lists.

These characters were taken from Prof. Kufferath's notes in Japanese, given to him personally by Prof. Okazaki.

OKAZAKI

NO KA OI

やわら
Yawara
(Hiragana)

投手
Nagete

絞手
Shimete

幼年部形
Yonenbu No Kata

奥手
Okute

氣合卷
Kiai No Maki

婦人護身卷
Fujin Goshin No Maki

警察技術
Kesatsu Gijitsu

神人卷
Shinnin No Maki

神陽卷
Shinyo No Maki

神原卷
Shingen no Maki

I cite some of the differences in the “Japanese Kanji Lesson” kanji/kana listings and the kanji/kana used by Master Okazaki’s in his mokuroku scrolls. The mokuroku instructor scrolls are official, signed, sealed, and notarized documents from Master Okazaki to his student instructors. This “Japanese Kanji Lesson” document contains NONE of these official seals and signatures. These differences are strong proof that this “Talk Story” article document was not from Master Okazaki.

や
わ Yawara
ら (Hiragana)

Comment: Yawara is correct as written by Master Okazaki in his scrolls.

投
手 Nagete

Comment: Nagete is correct as written by Master Okazaki in his scrolls.

絞
手 Shimete

Comment: Shimete is correct as written by Master Okazaki in his scrolls.

幼
年
部
形 Yonenbu No Kata

Comment: No Kata is incorrect as written by Master Okazaki in his scrolls. Master Okazaki used this kanji 型 kata instead of the one used here 形 in his scrolls. These two kata have similar meanings but they are two different kanji. Also there is no kana ノ No meaning “of” creating the name Yonenbu No kata.

奥
手 Okute

Comment: Okute appears incorrect as Master Okazaki wrote this as Oku No Te 奥ノ手 in his scrolls. The kana ノ No meaning “of” creating the name Oku No Te is missing.

気
合
巻 Kiai No Maki

Comment: Kiai No Maki appears incorrect as Master Okazaki wrote this as Kiai No Maki 気合ノ巻 in his scrolls. The kana ノ No meaning “of” creating the name Kiai No Maki is missing.

婦人護身卷 Fujin Goshin No Maki

Comment: Fujin Goshin No Maki appears incorrect as Master Okazaki wrote this as Fujin Goshin No Maki 婦人護身ノ卷 in his scrolls. The kana ノ No meaning “of” creating the name Fujin Goshin No Maki is missing.

警察技術 Kesatsu Gijitsu

Comment: Kesatsu Gijitsu is spelled incorrectly. “Ke-satsu” should be “Kei-satsu.” The kanji for Keisatsu Gijitsu are correct as written by Master Okazaki in his scrolls.

神人卷 Shinnin No Maki

Comment: These characters 神人卷 are written in the Chinese style reading Shinnin Maki not the Japanese style reading Shinnin No Maki. Master Okazaki writing in his Japanese scrolls always used the Japanese writing style using the kana character ノ No meaning “of”. So far, there has been no documented proof that Master Okazaki ever spelled this list as SHINNIN MAKI using the Shin/kami kanji.

神陽卷 Shinyo No Maki

Comment: These characters 神陽卷 are written in Chinese style reading Shinyo Maki. Master Okazaki writing in his Japanese scrolls always used the Japanese kana character ノ No meaning “of”. So far, there has been no documented proof that Master Okazaki ever used the Shin/kami kanji to spell Shinyo No Maki.

神原卷 Shingen No Maki

Comment: These characters 神原卷 are written in Chinese style reading Shingen Maki. Master Okazaki writing in his Japanese scrolls always used the Japanese kana character ノ No meaning “of”. So far, there has been no documented proof that Master Okazaki ever used this Shin/kami kanji 神 meaning “god” or this Gen kanji 原 meaning “original” for Shingen No Maki.

This research paper was revised on 4/29/09 to add clarifications with additional information and to correct minor inaccuracies based on new evidence supplied to the author. The author welcomes comments, suggestions, and evidenced based corrections from anyone.